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a few weeks

# Professor who fought the CIA and

By HELEN HUNTLEY  
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

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You can fight the Central Intelligence Agency and win. Ask Dr. Corliss Lamont — he did it.

The longtime civil libertarian and retired university professor brought the story of his battle to St. Petersburg Monday at a meeting of the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

For the past 25 years, the CIA had been opening all of Lamont's letters to and from the Soviet Union, copying them, resealing them and sending them on to their destination. Lamont says he never knew it was going on until he asked for the agency to give him his file under the Freedom of Information Act. The file contained photostats of 155 personal letters.

"I decided to sue the CIA for \$150,000 damages," he said. "They really hurt my feelings."

Most of the letters were to or from one of Lamont's former colleagues at Columbia University — a Russian economics professor named Vladimir Kazakevich — and contained scholarly discussions of economics and politics, Lamont said. Others were more personal, including two

love letters Lamont wrote home to his wife while traveling abroad.

"I just hope the CIA learned something reading all that," Lamont said.

Two months ago, he won his case. A federal district judge in Brooklyn ordered the CIA to pay him \$2,000 damages and send him a letter of apology. Lamont said he got the letter last week.

The battle with the CIA was far from Lamont's first civil liberties victory. That came 45 years ago, when he was arrested for picketing in Jersey City. He helped win the right of workers in Jersey City to organize and the case against him was dropped.

Over the years, Lamont also has won battles with the House Un-American Activities Committee and with Sen. Joseph McCarthy's Subcommittee on Government Operations. He was cited for contempt of Congress, but when he fought the indictment, the case was dismissed.

He also has battled the State Department's passport office and the U.S. Postmaster General. It took him seven years to renew his passport because he refused to sign a form swearing he had never been a member of the Communist Party. He hadn't been a Communist, but he had

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## I won tell how it's done

that wasn't any of the passport office's business, he said. In 1958, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with him.

"We couldn't travel in Europe, but I made up for it by going to Mexico twice," he said.

A few years later, he found out the U.S. Post Office was opening all second- and third-class mail from foreign countries to screen it for Communist political propaganda. If the postmaster general decided the material was subversive, the addressee would get a postcard asking him if he really wanted to receive it. Those who said they wanted their mail ended up on a list in the office of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

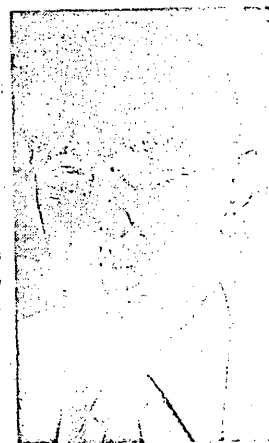
The postmaster general's downfall came when he sent one of those postcards to Lamont asking him if he wanted to receive a copy of the *Peking Review* someone had mailed him. Instead of sending back the card, Lamont sued the postmaster general. He won, in a unanimous Supreme Court decision in 1965.

Over the years, the FBI put together a 2,000-page file on Lamont, he said.

"My attorneys have told me that the FBI and the CIA spent a million dollars trying to prove I was a subversive," he said.

Lamont is the founder and chairman of the 26-year-old

*Finding out the CIA had been opening his mail for 25 years 'really hurt my feelings,' Dr. Corliss Lamont said Monday.*



National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee, a 4,000-member group which makes a business of going to court in behalf of civil liberties.

"It's like the American Civil Liberties Union but it's not competitive," he said. "There's enough work for both of us."

He lives in New York.

... is given, and combat-  
diers, pilots and navigators from the

RE S H RAGY

## Named Mike

**L**IEUTENANT FERDINAND SUEHLE—mentioned in Alexander Kendrick's article from Russia in today's Inquirer—can keep right on calling his plane "Mike," for his wish has come true.

A son was born to Mrs. Suehle, the former Miss Helen Jopson, in Germantown Hospital on May 30. And the 23-year-old mother named him Michael Edward Suehle.

Mrs. Suehle still was in the hospital with her baby yesterday, but



MRS. SUEHLE LIEUT. SUEHLE

her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Jopson, Sr., of the Winston road address, furnished some of the background of the couple's history to date. They met at a party in March, 1941, and were married Jan. 25, 1943.

Lieutenant Suehle, 29, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand T. Suehle, of Souderton, went overseas last September. He has been serving as squadron operations officer of the 15th Air Force, based in Italy, and was made a first lieutenant on May 20. A veteran of nearly 50 missions, including sorties over the Rumanian oil fields, he has the Air Medal and a number of Oak Leaf Clusters. Recent reports credited him with downing an enemy fighter plane over Rumania.

### SUITS FOR DIVORCE BEGUN

Grech—Dorothy vs. Stephen.  
Thompson—Frances Elizabeth vs. John Morrison.  
Fox, Virginia vs. Thomas J. Jr.  
Nihillo—Morris A. vs. Concetta.  
Arrison—Rita J. vs. Charles A.  
Poole—Maud B. vs. James A.  
Saugling—Ruth vs. Charles.  
Gradick—Marie P. vs. Jasper X.

The incoming fliers were equally amazed when they learned that the complete air bases to which their Flying Fortresses and Mustang fighters had brought them had been set up for their arrival in the shortest possible time.

They learned this had been made possible through Russian eagerness and willingness to work. The Russians who built the bases had worked double shifts in Stakhanovite manner to prepare the bases for "our honored guests," as the American fliers are called. Moreover, Russian and American work crews had engaged in "socialist competition" to see who could do a better job.

**T**HE American fliers who so unexpectedly found themselves guests if not heroes of the Soviet Union learned when they arrived that these secret bases were the fruit of some of the snappiest planning and quickest action the American Army has ever undertaken. If I could tell you the code word for this installation you would see what I mean.

In the space of a few months not only have complete Army bases been installed at several places in Russia, but they have been peopled with Army personnel. At the base I am visiting, the officers share in a joint operation three times a day with their Russian colleagues.

This joint operation is a Russian-American mess held in a building not long ago occupied by Germans and still carrying German signs.

**T**HE food, served in plates and cups marked with the initials K. A.—meaning Red Army—is a combination of American C rations and Russian flying rations and is therefore probably the best mess in the world.

For lunch today we had Russian radishes and herring, thick Russian soup, American beef, Russian kasha, heavy Russian black bread or American C ration biscuits, American canned peaches and Russian tea.

Another joint operation was successfully carried out last evening at an open-air theater which the Russians have built at this base. First the Red Army presented a program of songs and dances for the applauding American fliers. The Americans, unable to emulate the exuberance and litheness of the Russians,

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